



Herald Photo/Patrick J. Krohn

Although the frame of this bridge on Columbia Lane is still structurally sound, concrete on the sides is beginning to crumble. Work on the new bridge is scheduled to begin June 22.

BRIDGE:

(Continued from Page A1)

The two-lane bridge will be expanded to four lanes plus a center turn lane.

"It will provide the capacity for two to three times the traffic that the bridge currently has," Jones said.

Although the bridge's frame is still structurally sound, concrete on the sides is beginning to crumble.

"The deck has deteriorated badly," Jones said. Reinforced concrete beams will be used in the new structure.

The expansion will create a safer situation for pedestrians and bicyclists on the bridge and allow the city to extend the Provo River parkway trail underneath the

bridge, Jones said.

Currently, the bridge is based on two concrete arches with earth fill on top. It is the only bridge of its kind in the state, Jones said.

The new bridge will be a complete span across the river. Currently, a pile in the center of the bridge catches debris when it floats down the river during flooding.

"Immediately we'll see a big change in the flood capacity the bridge can handle," Jones said.

Columbia Lane will be widened from about 550 West to Riverside Avenue as part of the project, affecting some properties in that area.

Riverside Avenue will remain open to traffic.

Costs will reach approximately \$978,000 for the entire project, he said, with Provo city paying for the road expansion. The bridge itself will cost about \$660,000. Provo

city was required to pay 20 percent of the bridge costs up front and the rest will be paid through federal bridge replacement funds.

Jones said he expects the city to recover about 12 percent of its share of the bridge costs as it is paid back for services such as project engineering and surveying.

The city has had several meetings with businesses in the area, he said, and has attempted to speed up the construction process as much as possible. Similar projects usually take eight to nine months to complete.

"We didn't want to interrupt businesses any more than we absolutely have to," Jones said.

Some business owners were concerned that the project would eliminate parking on Columbia Lane, he said. The road widening will not affect diagonal parking at area businesses.